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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

January 1, 1922.

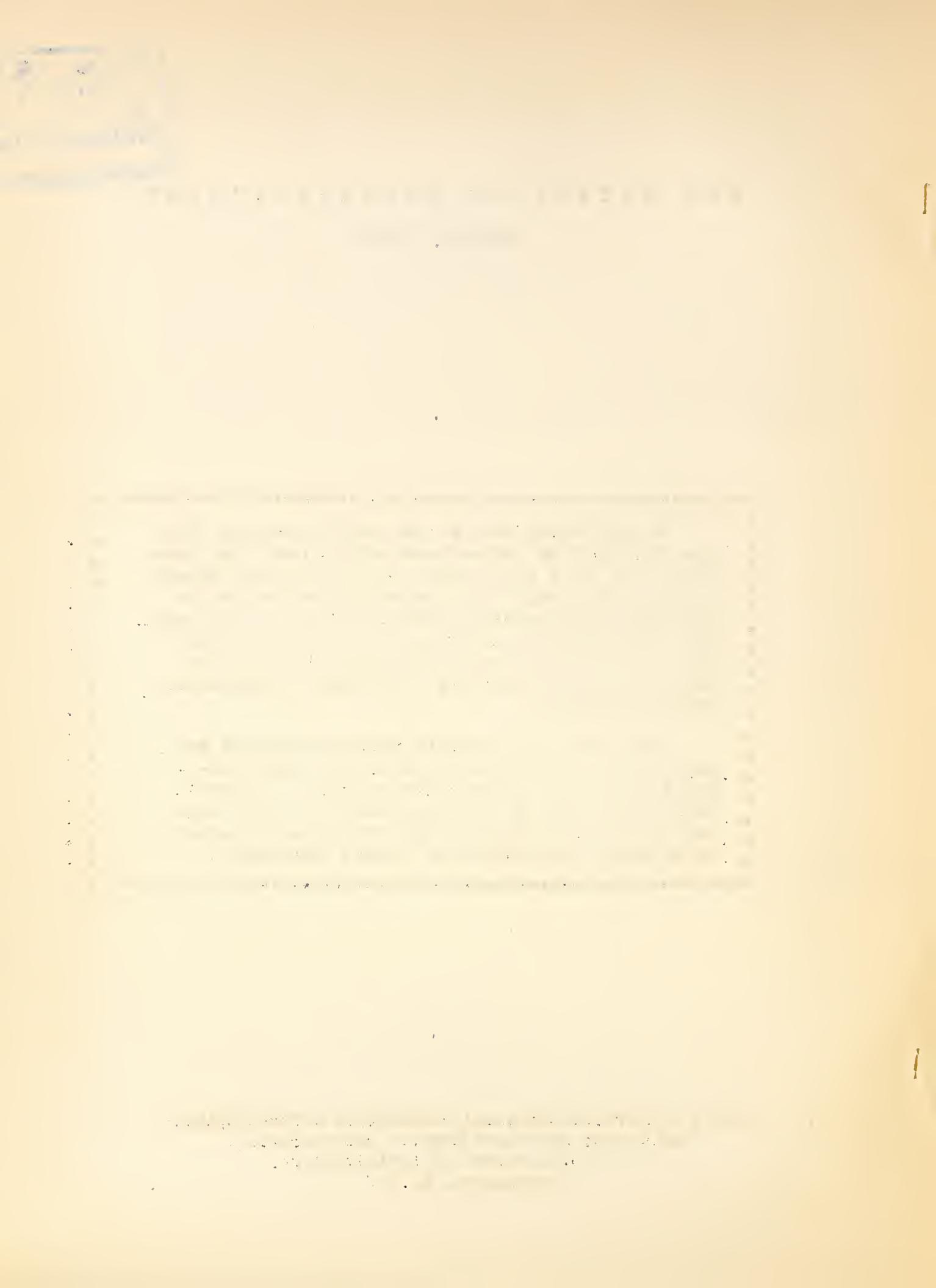
* We have again come to the end of the year, the
* time to profit by the mistakes of the past then care-
* fully plan for a more substantial development of ex-
* tension work. May it not be said of any worker in
* horticultural extension lines during the coming year
* that his work is of a "hit and miss" character but
* let every effort be in accordance with a definite
* plan based upon a survey of the needs of the horti-
* cultural industry.

* Not only may we profit by the results of our
* past efforts but by the experience of others en-
* gaged in the same general line of work. In this
* issue we are giving the experience of men who have
* been successful, trusting that the suggestions may
* be of help to horticultural workers generally.

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

Washington, D. C.



Horticultural Extension Work
in North Carolina.

Under date of December 9th, Prof. C.D. Matthews, State Horticulturist at Raleigh, North Carolina, writes as follows:

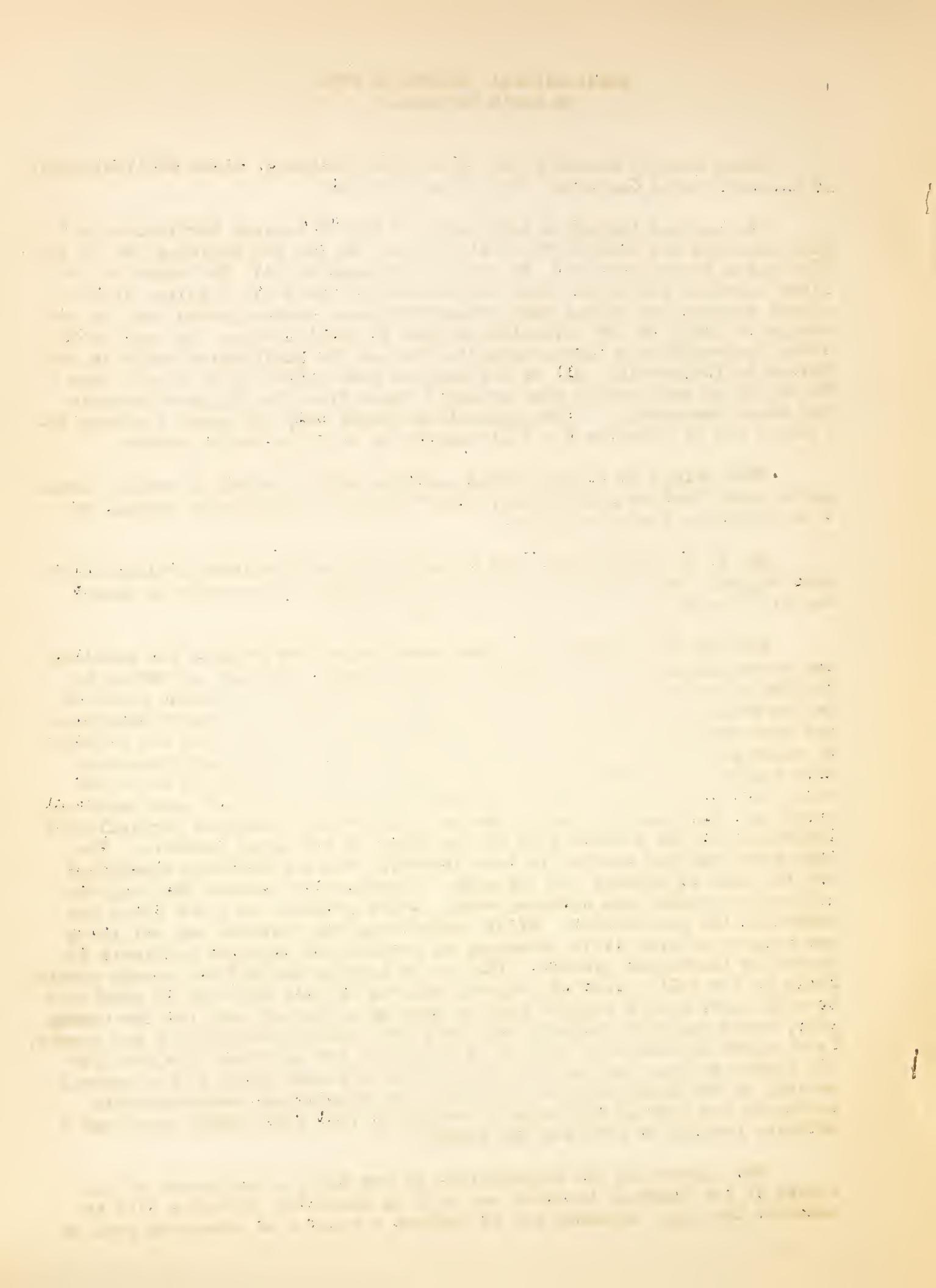
"In looking through a back issue of the "Extension Horticulturist" two questions are brought to my attention. Do you get anything out of the "Extension Horticulturist? Do you put anything in it? In regard to the first question let me say that the workers of the North Carolina station cannot commend too highly this publication as a common ground for the exchange of ideas by the extension workers in horticulture. We read every issue thoroughly and have a complete file of the publication which is referred to frequently. All of the numbers have proven to be stimulating to us and we have gotten many splendid ideas from the different reports and plans discussed. The publication cannot help but exert a strong influence and it deserves the full support of every extension worker.

This brings us to the second question which perfect sincerity forces us to admit that we possibly have not "put in" as much as we should, so I am sending a few notes along.

Mr. W. W. Magill was added to our staff as Extension Horticulturist last August. Mr. Magill is a graduate of Purdue and previous to August was with the Division of Markets of this State.

You may be interested to know something of our program for handling the extension work in horticulture in this State. We have attempted to develop a logical and sound program based on the most important problems in the State. In developing this program we first attempted to determine the most important horticultural industries in this State and the problems of these particular industries on the one hand, and the most important home phases of horticulture and their respective problems, on the other hand. We then drew up definite projects around each of the most important problems. For example, one of the most important commercial horticultural industries in the western part of the State is the apple industry. The important limiting factors in this industry from a production standpoint are the ones of pruning and spraying. Consequently, one of our projects deals with pruning and spraying work. Other projects in other lines are chosen in the same manner. After determining the problems and outlining our program of work it is necessary to perfect and organize machinery to reach the individual growers. This we do largely through the county agents. Early in the fall a list of projects offered by this Division is submitted to each agent with a request that he draw up a plan of work for the coming year, selecting such projects that best meet the requirements of his county. Each agent communicates with us in regard to the different projects for his county so that most of the arrangements are made prior to the general meeting of the county agents. However, any changes and rearrangements necessary are made at the general meeting so that each county agent has a definite program of work for his county.

For furthering the organization of our work, a conference of the agents of the Mountain District was held in Asheville, November 17th to consider the apple industry and to perfect a program of extension work in



these counties to assist in the development of this industry. In this section the apple industry is the most important commercial horticultural development, yet is is only in its infancy. The conference was opened by the Assistant Director of Extension, stating the purpose of the meeting. The Chief of the Division of Horticulture discussed the "Opportunity for Apple Growing in Western North Carolina and How it Should be Developed." Each county agent outlined the problems of his particular county. The Extension Horticulturist explained and discussed the projects in extension work offered by this Division and then a program of work for each county was developed. The conference was concluded by a joint session of agents and members of the North Carolina Horticultural Society which was of mutual benefit to both groups. The growers learned something of the plans and methods of the Extension Service while the agents met some of the best growers of the State and gained an inspiration for their work and secured a more thorough knowledge of the growers' problems.

I would like to see future issues of the "Extension Horticulturist" contain general discussions on the developing of organization in the field, or in other words, general discussions of different methods of reaching the growers in the field and getting them to use the teaching of the extension organization, together with specific plans for organizing communities and the results that have been secured. Our greatest problem at present is the one of field organization so that we can reach organized groups rather than individuals."

Report from South Carolina.

Mr. Geo. P. Hoffmann, Extension Horticulturist of Clemson College, wrote under date of October 29th as follows:

"I am glad to make the following summarized report of the horticultural work in South Carolina. Field men at the present time - four, Geo P. Hoffmann, A. E. Schilletter, C. A. Owens and R. Farmer. Messrs. Farmer and Owens are recently appointed Assistant Extension Horticulturists and promise to make excellent men. In general we are having more calls on every phase of our work than it is possible for us to handle.

Vegetable gardening - Our vegetable gardening work will be handled with the opening of the spring this next year much in the same way as that of last year, being with the Home Demonstration Agents. We found that we obtain excellent results by working up monthly garden lessons, one lesson for each month being sent on the 25th of the previous month in sufficient numbers as the clubs demand to the respective County Home Demonstration Agents of the State. In spite of the adverse weather conditions the gardens in this State have been unusually good and the vegetable exhibits at the State Fair this year were better than I have ever seen them before.

Orcharding - Our orchard work has increased to the extent that it is entirely out of the question to follow up the individual home orchard demonstrations in all of the counties. Therefore, using the home orchards as a unit of development we are beginning to build orchard groups in those counties showing sufficient advancement. I do not mean to infer that our

ideas are to abandon the individual orchard demonstrations entirely, but to handle the orcharding in this way until it is able to stand alone and then group the work by communities. Through such a method a paid worker by the community orchard club can keep up the work or the individual can do the work himself. Never before since my connection with the Extension Service have

I seen the growth of commercial orcharding, especially peach growing, so outstanding. With the end of the season I believe that we will have between 1,500 and 2,000 acres more than were planted to peaches last season. In some sections of the State strawberries and grape growing seem to be coming to the front, while in the peach belt it is interesting to note the increased development of the dewberry industry.

Special crops and sweet potato storage - sweet potatoes, beans, cucumbers, cantaloupes, Irish potatoes and asparagus were planted heavily throughout the boll weevil infested areas of the State last year and will increase this year. We have been doing everything possible to urge the building of a sufficient number of storage houses to take care of the crop of sweet potatoes and at this time we have approximately 281 Government standard houses in the State. Our crop is about all harvested and is in better condition than any previous years' harvest. I am enclosing herewith copies of some circular letters that we have sent out in support of our work recently.

Such being available I will be very glad indeed to have you furnish me a revised list of the Extension Horticulturists. Such information is of great value to us in the way of helping us to exchange ideas."

Spray Rings in Iowa.

Mr. W. J. Kocken, Assistant Extension Pomologist, Iowa State College of Agriculture, has given some interesting figures on the development of spray rings in Iowa. In 1919 there was one spray ring of 20 orchards, this was in Benton County. In 1920 this county had 15 spray rings with 271 members who sprayed their own orchards and 40 other orchards belonging to non-members. In 1921 there were 22 power sprayer rings with 410 members in Benton County. The following paragraphs are taken from Mr. Kocken's letter:

"Many other counties have taken hold of this movement and in 1920, 26 counties reported 137 spray rings. In these counties, 657 orchards were thus sprayed. In 1921, 62 counties had spray-ring organizations. A total of 358 spray rings are reported with 2,098 orchards being sprayed in this manner; 118 of the sprayers used in these rings are power machines.

The type of organization of a spray ring must be made to fit local conditions. This varies from a verbal agreement with the small hand-sprayers to a definite written contract where the power outfits are used. The following factors govern the type of organization:- size of orchards, number of members, total number of trees, distance between orchards, willingness of members to cooperate, individuality of growers. In small rings, the men exchange work, or the sprayer may be passed from one to the other and each do his own work. The larger rings generally employ a man who does the spraying and is responsible for the care of the machine.

The smaller sized rings seem to be gaining favor and organizations of not over 15 members give the best satisfaction. Even with the larger sized

power sprayers, difficulty is experienced in getting the calyx spray applied at the proper time when members exceed 15 in number. The size of orchards and distance apart of the growers are big factors in determining the number of members, but in general should not exceed 15.

The most satisfactory method of pro-rating the cost of the sprayer is to have each man pay in proportion to the number of trees (size considered) which he has to spray. That is, shares are sold on the basis of 100 or 200 trees, whichever might fit the case. When it comes to operating, and spray material costs, it is best to charge in proportion to the number of gallons of spray used. In this way each grower pays in direct proportion to the benefit received.

With only a partial fruit crop in 1921, the interest in spraying among the Iowa farmers was greater than ever before. We are receiving many inquiries and calls for assistance in spray-ring organization. In spite of the serious financial situation, new spray rings will be started next season, because the farmers realize that the investment pays."

Home Orchard Bulletin.

We wish to call attention to an extension bulletin on the Home Orchard by Prof. G. C. Starcher of Alabama. This bulletin is full of good information for the owners of home orchards and for those who contemplate planting new orchards. We are pleased to have the home orchard receiving such marked attention in Alabama and hope that other states will stress work of this nature.

Extension Schools.

Will the extension fruit and vegetable men who will hold extension schools in January, February and March, kindly send us a list of dates and places where these schools will be held so that we may arrange to visit them whenever possible.

Meeting Southern Agricultural Workers.

Attention is called to the meeting of Southern Agricultural Workers to be held in Atlanta, Ga., February 21, 22 and 23. Southern horticultural extension workers will be especially interested in the sessions of the Horticultural Section of this organization. Prof. C. D. Matthews, President of the section urges the attendance at the meetings of all southern horticulturists, who can avail themselves of this opportunity. One session at least of the Horticultural Section will be devoted to extension matters. While no official arrangements will be made for extension workers in horticulture to attend this meeting, it is hoped that a large number will be present.

W. R. Beattie,
Extension Horticulturist.

C. P. Close,
Extension Pomologist.

